

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Remaining Claims

Fifteen (15) claims (Claims 1, 3 – 10, and 12 – 17) remain pending in this application.

Rejection of Claims 1, 3, 6, and 16 under 35 USC §103(a) – Ono

Claims 1, 3-10 and 12-16 were rejected by the Examiner as being unpatentable over various primary and secondary references. Each and every rejection, however relies upon Japanese Patent No. JP 408129954A, hereafter referred to as the Ono patent. The Ono patent was not previously relied upon.

Specifically, in the present action, the Examiner relied upon the Ono patent for the element “at least one UV lamp which is surrounded by a plurality of optical fibres, wherein each optical fibre is linked to one casting mould.” This claim element is required in claim 1, and hence, all of its dependencies. The Ono patent discloses an illumination system having a UV lamp linked to a plurality of optical fibers. However, according to the translated Abstract of the Ono patent “the fibers are collectively bundled... and are formed as a virtual point light source...by a condenser lens 13.” The result of such a configuration is one virtual point from one UV lens instead of several points of light out of the same lamp. Additionally, use of the teachings in Ono would not be able to provide even illumination of the casting molds, which is necessary in the present invention. Hence, the Ono patent is not sufficient to provide a teaching or suggestion of a “plurality of optical fibres, wherein each optical fibre is linked to one casting mould,” as is required by the claims of the present invention.

As previously stated, the Examiner relied upon the Ono patent for each of his rejections. Because Ono does not teach or suggest a “plurality of optical fibres, wherein each optical fibre is linked to one casting mould” it cannot render the present claims obvious. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that all of the rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing and in conclusion, Applicants submit that the 35 USC § 103 rejections set-forth in the Office Action have been overcome, and that the pending claims are not anticipated by or obvious over the cited art, either individually or in combination. Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection(s) set-forth in the Office Action.

Should the Examiner believe that a discussion with Applicants' representative would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned. Please address all correspondence to Robert Gorman, CIBA Vision, Patent Department, 11460 Johns Creek Parkway, Duluth, GA 30097. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any other fees which may be required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 and 1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-2965.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KB', is written over a horizontal line.

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